

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SCA-01

SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 IO-14 CPR-02 SAJ-01 INR-10

PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 VO-03 DRC-01 EURE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /099 W

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O 181640Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3176

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13000

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS UR PINT

REF: MOSCOW 12928

1. BARABANOV VISITED EMBASSY LATE AFTERNOON OCT 18 ACCOMPANIED BY MARIA SLONIM (MOSCOW 11916). THEY WERE ESCORTED INTO AND FROM EMBASSY BY CONSOFFS WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. BARABANOV SHOWED CONSOFFS LETTER DATED OCT 13 FROM VERY REVEREND JAMES P. MORTON, DEAN, CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE, CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS, NYC, INVITING HIM TO LECTURE IN 1973-74 ON RUSSIAN HISTORY AND AESTHETICS OF THEOLOGY. LETTER ALSO INVITES BARABANOV'S WIFE AND TWO SMALL SONS. THIS INVITATION INCLUDES LECTURES AT BOTH THE CATHEDRAL AND UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY; BARABANOV HAS INVITATIONAL TELEGRAM FROM RIGHT REV. J. BROOKE MOSLEY, PRESIDENT OF UNION. BARABANOV ALSO SHOWED CONSOFFS INVITATION TELEGRAM FROM DR. FRANCIS WHITFIELD, CHAIRMAN OF SLAVICS DEPT, UNIV OF CALIF/BERKELEY. HE STATED THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE INVITATIONS WERE ALSO SENT TO HIM FROM COLUMBIA AND HARVARD, BUT THESE HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED. FYI: BARABANOV STATED THAT MORTON LETTER WAS TRANSMITTED TO HIM BY PRIVATE SOURCE, PRESUMABLY TIME MOSCOW BUREAU CHIEF SHAW. END FYI.

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3. BARABANOV STATED THAT HE AND FAMILY WILL APPLY "VERY SOON" FOR

SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION ON BASIS MORTON LETTER. HE ASKED CONSOFFS ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THEY SHOULD APPLY FOR TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT EXIT VISA. CONSOFFS, AFTER POINTING OUT THAT THIS MUST BE HIS PERSONAL DECISION, ADVISED UNOFFICIALLY THAT APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY EXIT PERMISSION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH NATURE OF INVITATION IN MORTON LETTER AND THEREFORE MORE LIKELY TO BE GRANTED BY OVIR. SLONIM EXPRESSED AGREEMENT AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS PROCEDURE FOLLOWED BY HER BROTHER-IN-LAW, VALERIY CHALIDZE. BARABANOV REPLIED THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR EMIGRATION TO AVOID WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "SCANDAL" OF SOVIET ACTIONS ABROAD IN DEPRIVING CHALIDZE AND ZHORES MEDVEDEV OF SOVIET CITIZENSHIP. WHEN CONSOFFS POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT EMIGRANTS TO US ARE NOT OBLIGED TO RENOUNCE SOVIET CITIZENSHIP (AS IS CASE FOR EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL), BARABANOV STATED HE WOULD APPLY FOR TEMPORARY EXIT PERMISSION. LIKE CHALIDZE, BARABANOV EXPRESSED STRONG PREFERENCE REMAIN SOVIET CITIZEN, ALTHOUGH HE IS OF COURSE FULLY AWARE THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE PERMITTED RETURN USSR.

4. BARABANOV ASKED THAT CONSOFFS TRANSMIT HIS DEEP GRATITUDE FOR INTEREST SHOWN IN HIM BY THOSE WHO HAVE INVITED HIM TO US AND BY OTHER AMERICANS, BOTH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL. AS TO HIS PRESENT STATUS, BARABANOV STATED THAT AFTER BEING PERMITTED TO WORK ONE WEEK IN FORMER POSITION AS EDITOR AS "ISKUSSTVO" (ART) PUBLISHING HOUSE, HE WAS AGAIN FIRED AS PART OF "TEN PERCENT CUTBACK IN STAFF." HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THIS ACTION CONTRARY TO ARTICLE 34 OF RSFSR LABOR CODE (KODEKS ZAKONOV O TRUDE), WHICH HE SAID STIPULATES THAT PERSONS WITH TWO OR MORE DEPENDENTS CANNOT BE DISMISSED IN SUCH STAFF REDUCTIONS.

5. RAISING HER OWN EXIT VISA APPLICATION, SLONIM STATED THAT HER EX-HUSBAND GRIGORY FRIEDIN RECENTLY RECEIVED LETTER FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER ON HER CASE. SHE STATED THAT SHE IS NOW CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR PERMISSION EMIGRATE. CONSOFFS ASSURED HER THAT EMBASSY WILL DO ITS BEST TO SUPPORT HER APPLICATION. SLONIM ALSO STATED, INTERESTINGLY, THAT HER SISTER VERA (CHALIDZE'S WIFE) RECENTLY REQUESTED AND RECEIVED (AFTER SIX MONTH DELAY) RENEWAL OF HER SOVIET PASSPORT BY SOVIET EMBASSY
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WASHINGTON. PPT ENDORSED FOR "PERMANENT RESIDENCE USA."

6. BARABANOV AND SLONIM CONSIDERED IT POSSIBLE THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES MIGHT WISH TO GRANT HIM EXIT PERMISSION IN ORDER "TO GET RID OF HIM," AS WAS DONE IN CASES OF CHALIDZE, MEDVEDEV AND OTHER DISSIDENTS.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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